THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) the present annual copper production capacity of India is 2,97,500 Tonnes.

(b) It is expected that capacity addition in annual production of copper in the year 2001-2002 would be around 50,000 Tonnes.

(c) As per the information furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total import of copper and copper products during April, 2000 to February, 2001 was valued at Rs. 894.56 crores.

Study on Harappan Civilization under Water

2837. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of scientists from National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), on one of its routine offshore surveys stumbled upon the ruins of Harappan Civilization under water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any systematic study of the material discovered has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would set up any special team of scientists and indologists to carry out a full-fledged survey of the area and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai while carrying out multidisciplinary underwater surveys of Gujarat coast during October, 2000 March, 2001, located archaeological sites in the Gulf of Cambay at 30 to 40m water depth extending over a length of 9 km. west of Hazira. During surveys NIOT came across a stretch of formations, typical of the riverine regime in the middle of the sea. The state of the art side scan surveys have picked up images that reveal excellent geometric objects which are normally man made. The area is seen to be lined with well laid house basement like features partially covered by sand waves and ripples.

(c) and (d) The study conducted was on the basi? of the underwater acoustic images. To confirm the age of these underwater structures, samples have to be collected from the study area and taken for dating studies. Since the

sea conditions were not conducive for carrying out such studies during the period of observation, it is now proposed to carry out sampling cruises at the site of the archaeological findings after October, 2001, subject to the weather conditions permitting.

(e) The proposed study would be conducted by a team of scientists drawn from National Institute of Ocean Technology, National Institute of Oceanography and other organizations which are involved in such activities. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would also be associated with this study.

Complimentary Rail Passes

2838. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and procedure for issuing complimentary rail passes;

(b) to whom such complimentary passes have been issued and when; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider to issue complimentary passes to chieftains of various religious sects, such as the Shankaracharya etc. the recipients of Bharat Ratna and the dignitaries having excellent performance in their respective fields; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Complimentary Passes are issued to the following categories as per the schemes announced from time to time and also under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways:—

L CARD PASSES

(1) Freedom Fighters.

(2) Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists/Dronacharya Awardees.

(3) Winners of Chakra series Gallantry Awards (Defence).

(4) Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).

(5) Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federations of India, Indian Olympics Association and State Olympic Associations affiliated to Indian Olympic Association.